

Questions from Peter McNamara to Sally MacFadden

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 4:47 PM

Regarding materials presented at the WC Commission meeting on 9/26/2014

Answers to questions are shown in red.

Dear Deb and Sally,

Thanks for your presentations at the WC Commission meeting on Friday. After looking over the data, Pete Sheffer and I were wondering if you could provide additional information on the following:

1. Ex. 9: what is meant by “no controls on the data for mix of diagnosis”?

It means that the data included was not adjusted. So the mix of injuries or diagnoses in the NH data would be based only on injuries in NH, and those in other states would be based on their own mix, which is likely different than NH.

2. Ex. 9: Is physical medicine physical therapy or physiatrists?

The Service Categories used in the presentation are defined by the American Medical Association (AMA). The categories are based on CPT code, which identifies the service rendered, rather than the type of professional performing the service. The top 10 Physical Medicine procedures by WC \$paid are shown on Exhibit 4 in the Detailed Medical Cost comparison. This was provided in the meeting packet and will also be available on the WC Commission website.

3. Ex. 10: would it possible to have this chart broken down to show medical costs of the top 10 WC injuries by hospital, physician, drugs, therapy, etc.)? The chart clearly shows high costs for NH in every code. We think that a break down by category would provide additional insight into whether the costs are driven by one category or all.

The breakdown of medical costs into some of those categories is shown on Exhibits 6/7, not just for the top 10 injuries, but for all injuries. Therapy is not shown in that exhibit because those costs are included in the Physician category (which includes professional services). The Physician category is further broken down into surgery, physical medicine, etc. in the next set of charts, on Exhibits 8/9.

4. Is there a way we could get apples-to-apples data from Massachusetts even though they are not a NCCI reporter?

No, we don't believe this level of data is collected by anyone but the NCCI. But we know that Massachusetts has one of the lowest paying fee schedules, so we would expect the average costs to reflect that NH is more expensive, just like the regional comparison does.

5. One participant mentioned that delay in care is a concern with Medical fee schedules. Does anyone track how quickly injured workers receive treatment and, if so, could that be broken down by states? I can't imagine that the 46 fee states have dramatically different treatment times than NH.

We're not aware of a source for that information, but will continue to research the question.

One participant was questioning whether any self-insured data is included in NCCI reports. I know we don't report to NCCI but I understood from Karen Shea that Motor Transport does report to NCCI. Perhaps others do as well.

The data in the presentation and in the Detailed Medical Cost comparison are for insured losses only. Self-insurance data is not provided to the NCCI.

Thanks for all of your hard work!

Sincerely,
Pete

Peter J. McNamara
NHADA President
NH Automotive Education Foundation Executive Director